



PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PDC FINES ELECTED OFFICIALS FOR FILING REPORTS LATE

Olympia – Chair of the Public Disclosure Commission, Mike Connelly, issued civil penalties after finding seven elected officials in violation of state Public Disclosure laws during brief enforcement hearings held today in Olympia.

Chairman Connelly found that seven southeast Washington area officials had not timely filed an annual Personal Financial Affairs Statement (Form F-1). State law requires elected officials and certain state appointed officials to file an F-1 with the Public Disclosure Commission by April 15th reporting financial activity for the preceding year.

Connelly stressed the importance of filing reports that disclose personal financial interests and holdings.

“These reports afford the public tangible proof that officials are acting in the public interest and not for their private gain,” Connelly said.

A letter reminding each official of his or her obligation to file was sent during the first week of May 2005. On June 4, a second letter with an opportunity to pay a civil penalty and forego an enforcement hearing was sent.

Government officials from southeast Washington who were assessed a penalty at the brief enforcement hearing are:

Elvia Lopez, City Council Member for the City of Wapato, was found in violation and assessed a civil penalty of \$100.

Larry Dekker, Commissioner for Naches Park & Rec Dist., was found in violation and assessed a civil penalty of \$100.

Louise Sisk, Director of Union Gap School Dist. #2, was found in violation and assessed a civil penalty of \$100.

Carolyn Brown, Benton County Superior Court Judge, was found in violation and assessed a civil penalty of \$150.

Julie Hill, Director of College Place School Dist. #250, was found in violation and assessed a civil penalty of \$150.

Zachary Lueck, City Council Member for the City of Pomeroy, was found in violation and assessed a civil penalty of \$150.

Timothy Taylor, Director of North Franklin School Dist., was found in violation and assessed a civil penalty of \$150.

Officials found in violation at the hearing will have an opportunity to ask the full, five-member Commission to review the action taken by the Chair.

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